



the QUARTERLY

FROM LITTLE THINGS
BIG THINGS
GROW

March 2011

www.clontarf.org.au

Tim Yorkshire (left) and John Garlett (right) with musician John Butler at the Broome to Bicton concert in February



clontarf foundation

Welcome to the March edition of our Clontarf Quarterly newsletter.

Kicking off in 2011

Smiles, enthusiasm and excitement greeted the new school year as 2,516 young men headed into the classroom and our Academies around the country.

The focus for Term One is encouraging school attendance through induction camps, early morning football training, healthy breakfast and creating a strong Academy culture amongst the boys.

With the support of local schools, new Academies have opened in Carnarvon and Northam (WA), and Rosebery and Yirrkala (NT), increasing our network to 44 schools.

More Academies will be opening during the year with Kormilda (NT) and Katanning (WA) scheduled to open soon.

Completing Year 12 is a top priority for all Clontarf Academy students. Currently, we have 258 young men enrolled in Year 12 and we anticipate this number to top 300 as we open more Academies.

Our Clontarf staff will be working closely with these Year 12s to help them all the way to the end of the year.

In addition to the academic program in schools, all Academy students are exposed to a broad range of career, training and study options. This means they are well placed to make a decision about their future upon completing school.

Our network of corporate partners kindly host workplace visits, provide career talks and offer work experience and school-based traineeship opportunities.

Each Academy works to a plan that delivers activities in education, healthy lifestyles, leadership & life skills, employment and football.

[Clontarf Foundation Highlights from 2010](#)

[What are Clontarf Induction Camps about?](#)

[Reaching new heights in Bairnsdale](#)

[Top Gear in the Top End](#)

[Subscribe to the QUARTERLY
CLICK HERE](#)



Members of the Tiwi Clontarf Academy in NT at football training before school

The Clontarf Vehicle

Our Academies use football as the vehicle to engage our young men. The boys' passion for football enables us to gain their attention and attract them to the Academy and school.

In Term One we have a strong focus on football with early morning training sessions, carnivals and games as a feature of this time of the year.

Early morning training sessions encourage a positive pattern of physical activity, personal hygiene, healthy diet and punctuality for school. But the excitement and anticipation of competing in home and away football games is a great motivator for each of the boys to achieve the necessary school attendance to allow them to play.

The major aim of this emphasis is to immerse our young men into the culture of the Clontarf Foundation. Key focus areas include developing positive behaviours, encouraging high levels of attendance, setting standards for punctuality and developing regular patterns of participation in education and Academy activities.

Super Training in Alice

140 students attended a combined super training from the three Alice Springs Clontarf Academies in late February.



The young men enjoyed a great morning of fun and fitness, mixing with peers from neighbouring Academies. Having so many Clontarf members training together on the same oval at 7am on a perfect morning was a great sight.

Some valued Clontarf Foundation supporters enjoyed the morning including Mayor Damien Ryan and representatives from OPUS International Consultants, NTIS and the NT Police.

After training everyone enjoyed a healthy breakfast of cereal, fruit and juice, before walking or catching a bus to school.

Highlights from 2010

2010 was another highly successful year for Clontarf Academies with a continuing focus on attendance, retention to Year 12, participation in education and making a successful transition to employment.

Clontarf Foundation staff work extremely hard to ensure that students are supported to be successful in these focus areas. As a result:

- 2,000 young men completed the year in Clontarf Academies
- The average school attendance rate across all Academies was 76%
- 169 students completed Year 12 with 104 of these successfully achieving a recognised Year 12 graduation
- 93% of Academy students completed the year or made a successful transition to another school, training course or employment
- 81% of our 2009 graduates are in secure employment or further training
- Nine of our 2010 graduates are studying at University in 2011
- Already, 68% of our 2010 graduates are working or in further training



Northam Clontarf Academy students celebrate the launch

New Academies Launched

In WA, Northam and Carnarvon Senior High Schools hosted launches in March to celebrate the arrival of Clontarf Academies.

Families, teachers, local community leaders and Clontarf staff welcomed over 100 students into the Clontarf Foundation.

The newly inducted Clontarf members were presented with their Academy shirts and applauded for their commitment to the program. Already school attendance has risen for Academy members in both schools.

Your questions answered

What are Clontarf Induction Camps all about?

Building a sense of belonging to an Academy is vital to ensuring ongoing participation by Academy students.

Each Clontarf Academy hosts an Induction Camp at the start of the year for any new students, particularly the younger ones who have just moved up from primary school. This is an important step for those students making the transition to high school.

The Induction Camp involves a one to three day trip away from school and home where lots of team building activities and games are conducted. The boys learn valuable lessons about trust, working together and looking after your mates.

The camp provides a safe, supportive and fun environment where the group can learn about and discuss Clontarf culture and values, as well as understand the expectations of the Academy, school and community.

For new Academies, all students attend the camp where they set goals, agree on their own values and behavioural standards, and make the first step in building a strong, two-way relationship with Clontarf Academy staff.

Members of the Clontarf Alumni, along with local Elders and guest speakers, are welcome and regular attendees at the Induction Camps.



The Casuarina Clontarf Academy in Darwin, NT, welcomed 18 Year 10s with a three-day Induction Camp to Katherine. Activities included volunteer work at Rocky Ridge Indigenous Aged Care facility, journal writing and visiting Nitmiluk National Park.

Camping, fishing, canoeing, rock-climbing, swimming and camp-cooking are the typical highlights of the camp, which is usually conducted early in Term One each year.

Induction Camps are an important tool for establishing a strong foundation in each Academy.

Valuing our Academy culture

As part of the inaugural upper school Induction Camp the boys were asked to put together a 'Values Board' for display in the new Carnarvon Clontarf Academy.

The Academy members worked in groups and brainstormed words that they thought of when they saw the Clontarf logo. The boys came up with a list of 15 words that represented the Clontarf culture. This was narrowed down to nine words which were then used as the basis of the Values Board.

The boys brainstormed again each individual value and what it meant to them. Together with the Academy staff the words were put into a sentence that represented their thoughts and feelings about the Clontarf culture.

The Values Board now has pride of place in the Academy room.

The Carnarvon Clontarf Academy senior students on camp in Geraldton, WA



CARNARVON CLONTARF ACADEMY Values Board

RESPECT: We will earn the respect of the community by respecting ourselves, our teachers, our family, Academy staff and each other.

TEAM WORK: We will achieve our goals by communicating effectively and working together in a positive manner.

RESPONSIBILITY: We are responsible for the decisions we make that affect ourselves and others.

LEADERSHIP: We will lead by example and help others to understand that they too can become leaders.

FUTURE: We will build a future that is healthy, positive and brighter. This will enable us to lead happier and more productive lives.

DISCIPLINE: We will always be honest and show self control in challenging situations. We will show strong values when faced with adversity.

PRIDE: We are proud of our community and show this by taking pride in ourselves. This is displayed in the way we dress and talk to each other.

COMMITMENT: I will commit to my studies and football in the same manner. I will work hard and play hard.

ENCOURAGEMENT: We will always encourage the younger generation to be better people by being positive and never putting down others.

As we follow this culture statement we will be making the most of the opportunities presented to us both on and off the field.



Yirrkala Clontarf Academy members fishing at Cape Arnhem on an Induction Camp

Top gear in the Top End

East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory is home to the newest Clontarf Academy, where we have just started at Yirrkala. Already, a very positive school and community reaction has been received.

Our Yirrkala staff, Rob Clements and Hamish Simpson both have considerable experience in working with Indigenous youth in remote communities, so we look forward to excellent outcomes from this Academy.

Palmerston High School has been divided into two campuses with the older students being educated at Palmerston Senior College and the younger students attending the new, state-of-the-art, Rosebery Middle School, just a few kilometres down the road. We now operate Academies in both schools.

Across the water on the Tiwi Islands, Tiwi College has undergone some exciting changes resulting in increasing levels of community involvement in the College. With the hard work of Clontarf staff, enrolments have already exceeded 40 students. The boys are all looking forward to a vibrant and successful Tiwi program this year.

Our 2010 Clontarf graduates are achieving great things – all who have remained in the region are now employed or have enrolled in further training. These young men are working with a diverse range of employers including Kakadu National Parks, Colemans Printing, the NT Government Environmental Department, mining companies in the region and the YMCA.

Josh Byrne and West Kimberley Clontarf Academy students in Broome



Reaching New Heights

Members of the Bairnsdale Clontarf Academy in Victoria were rewarded for an outstanding start to the school year with a day of indoor rock-climbing in Melbourne.

Each boy has started the new school year extremely positively and this activity was a reward for their attendance and effort. The activity was designed to challenge the boys in a number of areas including developing trust, overcoming obstacles, conquering fears and setting goals.

The team work and encouragement displayed by the boys was outstanding. Trust is an integral part of the climbing process as your buddy was required to handle the safety lines and encourage you on your way to the top.

The Clontarf Foundation values were on show all day with the highlight for the Academy being the outstanding feedback we received from the Hard Rock Facility. They complimented the boys on their behaviour, performance and politeness.

Bairnsdale Academy students climbing the indoor rock wall in Melbourne



Water Wise in the Kimberley

Gardening Australia's Josh Byrne visited the West Kimberley Clontarf Academy in Broome WA to hold a water-wise workshop with students and staff.

Josh has been visiting towns all over the Kimberley holding workshops and educating local people about the importance of sustainable water use.

In February, Josh took time out of his schedule to engage Academy staff and students in an interactive workshop at the vegetable garden, built by the boys, adjacent to the Academy room.

He promoted the message that water is a very important resource and there are many ways people can cut down water use in every day living.

It was a really interesting presentation and one that got the boys thinking a lot about the problems we may face in the future if we don't use our water wisely.

Action Packed

Victorian Academies have seen a great start to the year with many boys returning to school due to the presence of the Clontarf program.

Highlights already include football carnivals, rock climbing, induction camps, early morning boot camp, making breakfast for the school teachers and celebrating a good week of attendances with 'Hot Dog Fridays'.

The senior students in Mildura have started an outreach sports program with students from the Mildura Special School. The boys "buddy up" with a student from the school and help them with a variety of games and activities.

Our Academy staff in Mildura, Swan Hill, Robinvale, Warrnambool and Bairnsdale provide daily support and mentoring for 150 boys. 2011 is our second year in Victoria.

Warrnambool Clontarf Academy boot camp



The Warrnambool Clontarf Academy is running a boot camp to increase the fitness levels of Academy members and now the teachers are joining in on the fun.

The boys are picked up from their homes by Clontarf staff each Wednesday morning and join a number of teachers and Clontarf staff in the activity.

The weekly sessions go for around 45 minutes and involve running, boxing, skipping, core strengthening work, resistance training and games. All the boys work hard during the sessions and afterwards enjoy breakfast at the Academy room.

The response from the school is very positive and the sessions help build stronger student-teacher relationships.

Broome to Bicton 2011

A balmy summer night, glorious sunset and relaxed crowd created a fabulous atmosphere for the ninth annual Broome to Bicton Concert.



Shane Howard (right) performing at the Broome to Bicton concert in Bicton, WA

On the banks of the Swan River in Perth, around 3,000 people stretched out on picnic rugs and chairs to enjoy music from Dave Reagan, Shane Howard and John Butler in February.

Our two MCs for the evening were Tim Yorkshire and John Garlett. These Academy students did a fantastic job on stage in welcoming the audience, introducing each performer, and even telling their own stories. The boys represented their fellow Academy members and the Clontarf Foundation exceptionally well and, along with their families, we were very proud of them.

Special thanks go to Shane Howard and John Butler who arrived and performed at short notice to make sure the concert went ahead without a hitch.

It was with heavy hearts that we missed the Pigram Brothers from Broome, who were unable to perform at the last minute. Nonetheless, it was a magical evening and a great fundraising event for the Foundation.

Our thoughts are with the Pigram family on the recent passing of the wife of Alan Pigram, who is also the mum of Clontarf staff member, Dyann Pigram. The support that the Pigram family has provided the Clontarf Foundation over many years is treasured by our staff, students and Board members.



Gerard Neesham (centre) with 2009 Clontarf graduates

Gerard has dedicated the past 12 years to the Clontarf Foundation and his passion and determination has led to the growth of the Foundation from 25 boys in one school to over 2,500 boys in 44 schools in full-time mentoring across the country.

Halls Creek Academy Director Angus Baillie was a finalist in the 2011 Australian of the Year Awards in the 'WA Local Hero' category.

Angus was nominated for his work to improve student school attendance in remote communities by using innovative teaching methods. He previously worked as a teacher in the WA desert community Wingellina.



Staff Honours

Clontarf Foundation CEO Gerard Neesham was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day for his service to Indigenous youth and Australian Rules football.



The annual Nickel West Cup was a great success with nine WA Clontarf Academies contesting the weekend football carnival in Kalgoorlie. Over 200 Clontarf members earned the right to participate in the event, held in March, after meeting attendance and behaviour criteria at their respective schools and Academies. The Clontarf Foundation would like to thank BHP Billiton Nickel West for their ongoing support.

About Us

The Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the education, discipline, self esteem, life skills and employment prospects of young Aboriginal men and by doing so, equip them to participate more meaningfully in society.

Using the passion that Aboriginal boys have for football allows Clontarf to attract the boys to school. But it is not a sporting program.

Each Clontarf Academy, formed in partnership with the local school, is focussed on encouraging behavioural change, developing positive attitudes, assisting students to complete school and secure employment.

Fundamental to this, is the development of values, skills and abilities that will assist the boys to achieve better life outcomes.

Through a diverse mix of activities, the full-time, local Clontarf staff mentor and counsel students while the school caters for the educational needs of each student.

Clontarf Snapshot

States	WA, NT, VIC
Schools	44
Participants	2,516
Staff	128

Thank you

Clontarf would like to acknowledge our new partners and the ongoing contributions from those who have recently renewed their commitment to support the Foundation.

Atteris Pty Ltd.
Coca Cola Foundation
Fuelfix Pty Ltd.
Killarnée Civil and Concrete Contractors
Nestlé
POAGS
Santos
Territory Resources
UEA Civil and Mining
Westbrook Family

Interested in supporting our Foundation?
[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)



Clontarf Foundation Central Office
22 Thorogood Street, Burswood WA 6100
Ph (08) 9472 1111